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SUBJECT: HOLY SEE SUPPORTS COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO UN REFORM

REF: A) STATE 126870; B) STATE 130530

Summary

¶1. (SBU) Vatican MFA's Monsignor Francis Chullikatt told us July 22 he agreed that it made sense to take a comprehensive approach to UN reform rather than to reform the UNSC first and approach remaining reform issues in a "piecemeal" fashion. He confirmed the Holy See's support for a restructuring of the UN Security Council (UNSC), but emphasized that the Vatican would stay out of specific discussions on exactly who should be on a reformed UNSC (e.g., the G-4 framework resolution). He noted the Holy See's general support for a Peacebuilding Commission and commented that UN agencies had become so independent that better coordination among the various arms involved in peacebuilding was crucial to avoid wasted efforts and wasted money. Chullikatt's take on these issues merely confirms the approach we understand Permanent Observer Migliore has taken in New York, but is helpful in demonstrating that the Holy See mission in New York and the Vatican Foreign Ministry seem to be on the same page. End Summary.

Comprehensive Approach "Makes Sense"

¶2. (SBU) Vatican MFA's Monsignor Francis Chullikatt told us July 22 he agreed that it made sense to take a comprehensive approach to UN reform rather than to reform the UNSC first and approach remaining reform issues in a "piecemeal" fashion. Chullikatt, who recently served at the Holy See's mission to the UN, said the latter approach would not work. "If you take things piecemeal," he said, "you're going to lose momentum for reform in the many areas that need it." He received ref (a) points with interest, and confirmed the Holy See's support for a restructuring of the UN Security Council (UNSC) while emphasizing that the Vatican would stay out of specific discussions on exactly who should be on a reformed UNSC (e.g., the G-4 framework resolution). He also referred to Holy See UN Permanent Observer Archbishop Migliore's recent speech on UN reform, in which Migliore reviewed the essential criteria that should be taken into account for reshaping UN structures.

Better Coordination Needed for Peacebuilding

¶3. (SBU) Poloff also discussed and passed Chullikatt ref (b) points on the creation of a UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). Chullikatt noted the Holy See's general support for such a commission as indicated in Permanent Observer Migliore's address to the General Assembly in May, but was unfamiliar with the specifics of the U.S. objectives for the PBC. He commented that improved coordination within the UN system would indeed be an important step in the context of peacebuilding. He said that UN agencies had become so independent that better coordination among the various arms involved in peacebuilding was crucial to avoid wasted efforts and wasted money.

Comment

¶4. (SBU) Chullikatt's take on UN reform merely confirms the approach we understand Permanent Observer Migliore has taken in New York, but is helpful in demonstrating that the mission in New York and the Vatican Foreign Ministry seem to be on the same page. Cardinal Renato Martino, Migliore's predecessor as UN Permanent Observer (1986-2002), echoed Chullikatt July 26 when he told the Charge that any reform of the UNSC should be part of a broader "package" of reforms. Though Martino no longer specializes in UN issues, he is still very influential in the Vatican as President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

¶5. (SBU) Chullikatt is the Vatican's point man for human rights issues, UN/ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council), and UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund), among other multilateral topics, and backs up the Holy See's lead on

UN reform, Monsignor Osvaldo Neves (currently on vacation). Chullikatt had high praise for USUN staff with whom he had worked on his recent assignment in New York.

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